

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A medical ~~apparatus system~~ comprising:
an installed medical ~~system~~ ~~having~~ imaging apparatus comprising a plurality of permanently installed components including a control unit for operating the installed medical imaging apparatus system;
a remote access interface connected to the control unit ~~for allowing~~ configured to allow the control unit to communicate with a remote location for remote servicing of the installed medical imaging apparatus system;
an external device that is separate from said permanently installed components of said installed medical imaging apparatus and that is usable in combination with said installed medical imaging apparatus, said external device comprising an external device interface system;
said installed medical imaging apparatus system having an a remote access interface connected to said control unit, and connectible to said external device interface when said external device is used in combination with said installed medical imaging apparatus system, ~~for allowing~~ to allow communication between said control unit and said external device; and
said control unit comprising a router ~~for placing~~ configured to place said external device in communication with said remote access interface, via said external device interface, ~~for allowing~~ to allow remote servicing of said external device from said remote location through said remote access interface and said external device interface.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said installed medical imaging apparatus system is a computed tomography apparatus system and wherein said external device is a power contrast agent injector.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit comprises security protection for isolating said external device at least from permanently installed components of a remainder of said installed medical system imaging apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the external device.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A medical system as claimed in claim 3 wherein said security protection comprises security hardware.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

5. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A medical system as claimed in claim 3 wherein said security protection comprises security software.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said remote access interface is built into said installed medical imaging apparatus system as an original component thereof.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

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7. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said remote access interface is configured for retrofitting ~~retrofitted~~ into said installed medical imaging apparatus system.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Currently amended) A method for remotely servicing an external device used in combination with an installed medical imaging apparatus that comprises a plurality of permanently installed components, said external device being separate from said permanently installed components system, comprising the steps of:

providing an said installed medical imaging apparatus system with remote access equipment allowing remote servicing of said installed medical imaging apparatus system;

connecting an said external device to said installed medical imaging apparatus system; and

temporarily connecting said external device to said remote access equipment in said installed medical imaging apparatus system for allowing remote servicing of said external device through said remote access equipment of the installed medical imaging apparatus.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of providing said installed medical imaging apparatus ~~installation~~ with remote access equipment comprises building said remote access equipment into said

installed medical imaging apparatus device at a time of installation of said installed medical device.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of providing said installed medical imaging apparatus device with remote access equipment comprises retrofitting said installed medical imaging apparatus system with said remote access equipment after installation of said installed medical imaging apparatus system.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (Currently amended) A method for servicing an external device used in combination with an installed medical imaging apparatus that comprises a plurality of permanently installed components, said external device being separate from said permanently installed components device, comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication link between an said installed medical imaging apparatus device and a service center remote from said installed medical imaging apparatus device;

via said communication link, remotely servicing said installed medical imaging apparatus device from said service center;

temporarily connecting an said external device to said installed medical imaging apparatus device; and

routing said communication link from through said installed medical imaging apparatus device to said external device; and

remotely servicing said external device from said service center through said installed medical imaging apparatus system.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Currently amended) A method for charging for servicing of an external device used in combination with an installed medical imaging apparatus that comprises a plurality of permanently installed components, said external device being separate from said permanently installed components device, comprising the steps of:

installing an said installed medical device imaging apparatus, manufactured by a first manufacturer;

providing said installed medical imaging apparatus device with remote access equipment allowing said installed medical imaging apparatus system to communicate with a service center located remote from said installed medical imaging apparatus device for remote servicing of said installed medical imaging apparatus device;

connecting an said external device, manufactured by a second manufacturer, to said installed medical imaging apparatus system;

establishing communication, through said remote access equipment of said installed medical imaging apparatus device, between said external device and said remote center for remotely servicing said external device through said medical imaging apparatus; and

imposing a monetary charge from said first manufacturer to said second manufacturer dependent on said remote servicing of said external device.

Add the following new claims:

13. (New) A method as claimed in claim 8 comprising isolating said external device at least from said permanently installed components of said installed medical imaging apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the external device.

14. (New) A method as claimed in claim 11 comprising isolating said external device at least from said permanently installed components of said installed medical imaging apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the external device.

15. (New) A method as claimed in claim 12 comprising isolating said external device at least from said permanently installed components of said installed medical imaging apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the external device.